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News Release

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SENSE OF THE SENATE: MARRIAGE PENALTY MUST END

WASHINGTON – As cosponsor of the Sense of the Senate regarding elimination of the marriage penalty tax (S. Con. Res. 101), which passed the Senate today, U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback released the following statement.

"Our Sense of the Senate is simple," Brownback said. "It states that the Congress should pass marriage penalty tax relief legislation that begins a phase-out of this penalty in 2001, and that the Congress should consider this legislation before April 15, 2000.

"Last week, the Senate Finance Committee considered an important bill to provide marriage penalty relief (S. 2346). This bill would provide relief to millions of American families suffering under the burden of the marriage penalty.

"The proposal considered by the Senate Finance Committee, used the House passed version as a base upon which it built an even broader and more inclusive bill. Our bill restores fairness and equity to a tax code that has come to penalize the institution of marriage in over 66 different ways.

"Marriage is important, and stable families are important. Our approach, very appropriately, recognizes the very important vocation of a stay-at-home spouse. While our approach reduces and eliminates the marriage penalty for many filers, it also sends an important signal to all of America that we recognize the institution of marriage and we intend to promote it as the fundamental building block of society," Brownback said.

S. 2346 eliminates the marriage penalty in the standard deduction; widens the 15 percent bracket; applies the same principle of bracket widening to the 28 percent bracket as well; increases the phase-out range for the Earned Income Tax Credit; and would permanently extend the provision that allows the personal non-refundable credits to offset both the regular tax and the minimum tax.

The Sense of the Senate was introduced by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and cosponsored by Sens. Brownback and John Ashcroft.